

Northwestern Local Human Right Committee

The next scheduled meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Right Committee will be on February 12, 2013 at Grafton.

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 13, 2012 LHRC MEETING

The November 13, 2012 meeting of the Northwestern Local Human Rights Committee was held at Northwestern Community Services Board in Front Royal, VA.

Members Present: Ms. Jeannie Decker; Ms. Joanne Ebersole; Ms. Audrey Brown; Ms. Carol Ricker; and Ms. Jean Snider.

Affiliates Present: Chuck Collins & Mark Seymour (Advocates); Cathy Wolfe-Heberle (Blue Ridge Opportunities); Christine Hartman & Bill (Children's Services of Virginia); Brian Kesner (Community Alternatives of VA); Scott Worley (Creative Family Solutions); Heidi Fields (Family Preservation); Clif MacDonald & Tammy MacDonald (Good Life Corporation); Amy Smith & Scott Zeiter (Grafton); Eddie Cassidy (Lord Fairfax House); Cassie Purtlebaugh, Christina Coleman, Diane Exner, & Artea Ambrose (Lutheran Family Services); Troy Payne (National Counseling Group); Mark Gleason (NWCSB); Emily Johnson (NOVA Family Services, Inc.); Troy Hawkins, Melanie Bounds, & Glenda Anderson (NW Works); Mickie Duncan, Shandal Powell, KK Stroop, & Barbie Sharp (Shen-Paco); Ralph Combs (SVCR); Karen Tompkins (Timber Ridge School); Lana Hurt (Wall Residences); Mandy Caracofe (Where the Heart Is); Angela Allmaras Robertson (Winchester Addiction Services); and Gayle Shanholtz (Winchester Medical Center).

Affiliates Absent: Bridging the Gaps; Heart Havens; Intensive Supervision; and Winchester Community Mental Health Center.

Others Present: Valenthia Mack, Sam Gray, Tracey Guard-Matos, and Patricia Kidd.

Call To Order: Ms. Decker called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and welcomed everyone. She thanked Northwestern for hosting and everyone for coming.

Meeting Minutes: Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the August 14, 2012 minutes, Ms. Ebersole seconded and the motion carried.

Public Comments: Ms. Lana Hurt from Wall Residences shared with the board an upcoming event that the ARC of the Northern Shenandoah Valley was hosting.

Comments by LHRC Affiliates or Members:

- Ms. Tompkins from Timber Ridge School announced that Ms. Eileen Martelli will be joining their staff as the new Clinical Director.

- Mr. MacDonald from Good Life recently had a situation where a client was able to reconnect with their family.
- Mr. Kesner from Community Alternatives of Virginia informed the board that they are expanding their program due to the DOJ process. A new five person group home in Woodstock will open in February.
- Mr. Zeiter from Grafton was pleased to announce that a group of kids from their Berryville location formed a Leo Club. This is part of the Winchester Lion's Club.
- Ms. Anderson from NW Works was happy to announce that their casino night fund raiser went very well. Ms. Anderson also shared with the board that they have hired a director of business to bring more job opportunities for workers.
- Ms. Ambrose from Lutheran Family Services stated that the essential pieces bingo had about 200 people in attendance. Essential pieces will be taking a break and will start back up in January 2013.
- Ms. Wolfe-Heberle from Blue Ridge Opportunities was pleased to announce their CARF accreditation. They are excited to move forward with the process. Recently Blue Ridge Opportunities took a trip to Chantilly to see the sights and sound circus. Everyone had a great time. They experienced a LogistiCare incident about two months ago and Ms. Wolfe-Heberle briefly explained what happened. The complaint went all the way up through DMAS.
- Mr. Gleason from Northwestern Community Services informed the board of their collaboration with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). Northwestern is looking at expanding on a community effort with partners in our region.

Advocate Update:

Mr. Collins thanked Northwestern for providing human rights training. Human rights regulations do not require advocates to do the training but it is a good training to attend. The Central Office's number one priority is the DOJ agreement. A number of new employees have been hired. These new employees will make up focus groups located at each training center. They will be implementing very elaborate discharge plans. Another thing coming out of the DOJ agreement is serious injury reports. The requirement now is to report to a central person, Ms. Stella Stiff. Reports must go to her and she will send the information to Mr. Chris Cart, Mr. Mark Seymour, or Mr. Chuck Collins. Also, when a client has a serious injury or dies this must be reported to the department within 24 hours. Western State Hospital is going to open for business September of 2013. Mr. Collins and Mr. Seymour recently took a tour of the hospital.

Mr. Seymour stated that there has been a switch in clientele in the commonwealth centers. They are seeing an increase in intellectual disability and the autism spectrum. Statewide there are now some residential providers that are offering services cheaper than Medicaid. A restoration for competency services for kids is now being offered in Virginia. If anyone would like more information please email Mr. Seymour.

Program Reports:

Ms. Decker clarified the reporting guidelines. Each affiliate will need to submit four quarterly reports and one annual report.

Mr. Collins stated that the affiliates did an outstanding job on their reports.

Old Business: The subcommittee that will look at organizations wishing to affiliate with the NWLHRC from other regions or areas will meet in January. Ms. Bundrick will send an email to those who volunteered to be on this committee.

New Business: Ms. Hurt from Wall Residences requested affiliation of service Ms. Snider made a motion to approve, Ms. Ebersole seconded and the motion carried. Ms. Coleman from Lutheran Family Services requested affiliation of three new TDT sites in the Winchester City schools. Ms. Exner from Lutheran Family Services requested affiliation of a new in-home supports with a respite track for children and adults with intellectual disabilities in their Winchester office. Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the new TDT sites and the new in-home supports program, Ms. Ricker seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Gray from Family Insight requested permanent affiliation Ms. Brown made a motion to approve, Ms. Snider seconded and the motion carried. Ms. Fields from Family Preservation requested the addition of a new TDT site at Apple Country Head Start Ms. Brown made a motion to approve, Ms. Ricker seconded and the motion carried. Ms. Hartman from Children Services of VA requested affiliation of four schools. Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the TDT services at the four schools and Ms. Ricker seconded, the motion carried. Ms. Kidd from CORUM Human Services requests permanent affiliation Ms. Brown made a motion to approve, Ms. Ebersole seconded and the motion carried.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:41. The next meeting of the LHRC will be at Grafton.

Executive Session: Ms. Decker made a motion that the LHRC convene into closed session to discuss confidential client matters pursuant to the protection of privacy exemption as noted in Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (4). Ms. Brown seconded and the motion was approved.

Executive session was adjourned at 7:56 where it is certified that only confidential client matters were discussed.

During the Executive Session:

- 1) Shen-Paco was given approval to implement a behavioral plan for one of their clients.
- 2) The LHRC met with representatives from Grafton School.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Catherine E. Bundrick, NWCS Administrative Assistant

Jeannie Decker, Chair

Mark Gleason, LHRC Liaison